

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GRAPHICALLY
FORMULATING A SEARCH QUERY AND DISPLAYING RESULT SET**

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Abstract of the Disclosure

10 A user interface using graphical means to formulate a search query in
which the method of providing the query includes the steps of selecting a visual
representation of a search object (402), dropping the visual representation of a
search object onto a visual representation corresponding to a domain object
(404), and providing a search query in response to the dropping step (406). The
system includes a graphical user interface, a graphical user interface manager
(300) communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface, a query
15 formulator (302) communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface
manager (300), and responsive to the selected visual representation of a search
object being dropped onto the selected visual representation of a domain object,
a query initiator (304) communicatively coupled to the query formulator (302) to
initiate a query request in response to the provided query, a lookup system (220)
20 communicatively coupled to the query initiator (304) for providing a search result
in response to receiving the query request, and a result set manager (306)
communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface manager (300), the
query initiator (304), and the lookup system (220), for providing a visual
representation of a result set object to indicate the search result.